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Message from the Mayor

Let me first wish all of our readers a safe and happy holiday season. The holidays are a special time when all of us can look forward to spending time with our families and friends. It's also a time for reflecting on the good things in our lives.

It's my hope that during this holiday season we will be able to reconnect with our neighbors and focus on what is important – peace. This year, we should make sure that we remember the men and women from the District of Columbia and around the country who are overseas defending our great nation. Let us pray for their safe and speedy return.

As always, I challenge you this holiday season to give of yourselves to those who are less fortunate. This is the season of giving, and that means we all need to slow down, count our blessings and cherish those around us – our family, neighbors, and especially our seniors and young people. As always, I encourage citizens to look out for one another and check on your neighbors who may be seniors or who may need extra help.

This year, I've made an extra effort to ensure that needy children across our city have a special holiday season. On December 12, I held my annual toy drive at the Reeves Center in Northwest. Working together, we distributed nearly 1,000 toys to needy children across the city and to evacuees from Hurricane Katrina through our DC Department of Human Services' (DHS) "Strong Families" program.

It was truly a team effort on our end – a joint effort among our "Ward Coordinators," along with the Office on Asian and Pacific Islanders, the Office of Veterans Affairs, and the Office on Latino Affairs.

On December 20, I joined officials from DHS at the agency's headquarters for its annual Toys for Tots giveaway. I'm very pleased that the agency bought and collected more than 2,000 toys for 600 children, as a result of contributions from its employees, AFSCME District Council 20 and the US Marines Toys for Tots drive.

Let this message also serve as a reminder that hypothermia season began November 1 and lasts until March 31. If you see someone in need, please call the Department of Human Services Hypothermia Hotline number: 1-800-535-7252 – and help us bring a homeless person in from the cold.



Winter Means Sign Up for DC-EMA's "Alert DC"

Now that winter weather is in full swing, the possibility of natural hazards is something we should all be aware of. I want to remind all DC residents to sign up for Alert DC, the District of Columbia's three-part citizen emergency notification system. This innovative system helps you prepare for inclement weather conditions that have the possibility to immobilize our city.

The Alert DC emergency notification system allows District residents to receive an alert about procedures imperative to the safety of all of our residents, through three different channels of communication.

The DC emergency text alert or text notification system allows citizens to receive emergency text messages on any text-capable device—cell phone, computer e-mail, pager, and fax. Residents can enroll online for this type of notification by identifying their electronic device of choice and providing the access number for that device.

In addition, District residents have access to a DC emergency voice alert provided through a telephone voice messaging system that allows emergency managers to notify citizens of an actual or impending incident that requires them to take some protective action (like evacuation or shelter-in-place).

Finally, the District has partnered with local radio stations so that area media outlets can broadcast important messages in case of an emergency through this Emergency Alert System. As soon as the radio stations broadcast the information, local television stations will receive the message and prepare televised broadcasts. The primary radio stations (FM/AM) to listen to in the District of Columbia include:

- WTOP 1500 AM, 107.7 FM
- WMAL 630 AM
- WGMS 103.5 FM
- WJZW 105.9 FM
- WKYS 93.9 FM
- WLZL 99.1 FM
- WPGC 95.5 FM

When an incident or emergency occurs, authorized DC Emergency Management (EMA) personnel can rapidly notify you using this community alert system. Alert DC is a personal connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, what to do, or what not to do, who to contact, and other important information. It's available to all residents of the District of Columbia as well as individuals traveling to or working in our city.

For more information about Alert DC visit dc.gov.

Developing the Anacostia Waterfront

On Monday, December 12, I joined members of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation (AWC) to announce the selection of designated developers for sites in the area surrounding a new Washington Nationals ballpark that will be built on the banks of the Anacostia River in southeast Washington, DC.

Rather than choose one developer for the site, we have given several different developers the opportunity to enter into exclusive negotiations with AWC in order to develop mixed-use projects on two publicly owned sites that the AWC is presently seeking to acquire near the ballpark.

The selected developers were divided into two development teams and include the team of Forest City Washington, Inc., Western Development Corporation, The Jarvis Company, The Jair Lynch Companies and MacFarlane Partners-DC and the team of Monument Realty, LLC, the Cordish Company, and Triden Development Group.

The Anacostia Waterfront Corporation, which is an instrumentality of the Government of the District of Columbia, has proven that they are committed to the development and revitalization of the underutilized public lands along the Anacostia River.

I applaud the speed with which AWC designated this 'All Star Team' of developers who will participate in the waterfront district development, and I am very pleased by the efforts of AWC Board Chairman Stephen Goldsmith, AWC President and CEO Adrian Washington and the AWC staff.

The development envisioned by the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation and the development teams will result in tens of millions of dollars in tax revenue to the District. This tax revenue is a direct result of building a ballpark in Southeast, and it will significantly benefit the entire city.

We need to keep up the pace set by the construction of the ballpark to ensure that the area supports new retail and entertainment venues and provides tax revenues that contribute to the Community Benefit Fund. Only by integrating the themes of environment, transportation, parks, culture and community development, can we restore the river and revitalize the neighborhoods along its shores.

I am confident that the location of the ballpark along the Anacostia River will serve to reinforce the connections between neighborhoods on both sides of this river. In addition, by developing along the Anacostia waterfront we can help link this underutilized segment of the river back to the Capitol.



BRC Alerts

DCLMPC Partnership
Works!

DCOA Spotlight on Aging

DHS Outreach

DISB DC Financial
Gateway Express

OAG Inter Alia...

OAPIA Updates

OPGD Grant Funding
Alerts

Honoring Our City's Police Heroes

During my weekly press briefing on Wednesday, December 14, I acknowledged some outstanding Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers and employees, many of whom rarely get credit for doing such great work for our city. These officers and community heroes are just some of the more than 200 who were honored during the MPD's 6th Annual Awards Ceremony at DAR Constitutional Hall last Wednesday night. Among the MPD officers and employees honored included the following:

Detective Christopher Kauffman, of the Violent Crimes Branch, who received the Detective of the Year Medal. With an average closure rate of 75 percent, he is considered not only one of the top homicide detectives in the MPD, but in the nation.

First District **Officer James Burgess** received the Officer of the Year Medal. Officer Burgess has distinguished himself in a number of ways. From his aggressive patrols to training newer officers, to volunteering in the community, and a number of impressive arrests in PSA 101, this 15-year veteran consistently demonstrates skill and leadership.

Sheila Beaman, of the Testing and Standards Unit, received the Employee of the Year Medal. Over the past year, Ms. Beaman served as Project Director on numerous selection processes. In addition to the duties of her position as Project Director, she also oversaw preparations for the 2005 promotional processes for Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain.

Two officers from the Sixth District were the recipients of a Medal of Valor, one of the MPD's top honors given for heroic actions. **Officer Mikal Ba'th** was recognized for his exemplary service in apprehending a man while off-duty who attempted to carjack his vehicle in Southeast.

The other recipient of the Medal of Valor, **Officer Michael Tucker**, was awarded this honor for his commendable work in apprehending a suspect who fled on foot when approached by Officer Tucker in Southeast. The Officer was able to cut off the suspect's escape.

In addition, the honor of Reserve Officer of the Year was awarded posthumously for the first time at the 6th Annual Ceremony, to **Reserve Officer Joseph Pozell**, who died while directing traffic in Georgetown in May. The award is being named in Officer Pozell's honor. The Blue Shield Medal, presented to sworn or civilian members who are seriously, critically or fatally injured while in direct performance of police duties, was also given posthumously to **Officer James McBride** who died in a training accident in August.

Chief of Police Charles H. Ramsey offered his thoughts about the recipients, stating, "The remarkable thing about most of our award winners is that they had little expectation of ever being recognized for their efforts. For most of these heroes, they were simply doing their jobs - or, in the case of our residents, their civic duty. This annual awards ceremony is the District's chance to give these people some of the recognition and thanks that they deserve."

Other awards presented during the ceremony Wednesday night included the Lifesaving Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal, for outstanding contributions; the Achievement Medal, for individual acts of skill or bravery; and the Unit Citation, for excellence by an entire MPD unit, among many others.

Department of Parks and Recreation's Winter Guide

Winter is a wonderful time of the year to participate in some of the free recreation activities and leisure pursuits offered by the District of Columbia's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Check out DPR's *Winter Activity Guide* as a way to stay busy and active during the cold winter months.

The free activities include sports, dance, martial arts, aerobics, personalized weight training programs, academic enrichment classes, creative crafts, poetry slams, book clubs, after school activities, senior aquatics and other programs.

Teens should take advantage of the extracurricular activities listed in the Activity Guide that are designed specifically for them. Over the past year, teens have said to me that they wanted things to do that were fun and enjoyable, that they did not want to be bored and that they wanted safe spaces to share thoughts and ideas. They wanted their voices heard and their talents recognized, whether in sports or poetry slams.

The Department of Parks and Recreation is committed to achieving a standard of excellence in program development and diversity, community outreach, services for children with special needs, staff professionalism, and customer service. DPR is committed to working hard on making its initiatives successful through the creation of stimulating year-round activities and classes for both physical and mental fitness and for individuals of all ages.

I encourage our readers to visit neighborhood recreation centers this winter. By getting involved, you can help us keep our finger on the pulse of the communities we serve. In closing, remember to reap the rewards of a healthy lifestyle simply by joining in the fun.

Please go to dc.gov to obtain a complete list of recreation centers and programs.



District Activities



Mayor Williams delivers remarks during a rally in support of bringing baseball to DC at Freedom Plaza on Monday, December 19.



Mayor Williams attended the annual Office on Aging Holiday Celebration held at the DC Armory in Northeast. Approximately 3,000 of the District's senior citizens attended the event.



Mayor Williams presented holiday toys to District children at the Department of Human Services' "Toys for Tots" giveaway.

Community News

- [Mayor Says Ballpark Will Revive Waterfront, Boost City; Urges "Yes" Vote from Council](#)
- [Mayor Requests Council Delay Vote on Ballpark Lease Agreement](#)
- [Mayor Encourages Donations to Dunbar Marching Band for Gator Bowl Trip](#)

Upcoming Events

[View All](#) [News Releases](#)

12/19 to 12/23	DCCAH 2005 Holiday Music Series Locations throughout the District
12/30	Joy in the City 2005 11 am – 3 pm DC Armory 2400 East Capitol Street, SE For more information, call (202) 397-1870
1/9	21st Annual Mayor Arts Awards 6 pm Kennedy Center For reservations, call (202) 724-5613
1/15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration 3 pm University of the District of Columbia 4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW Building 46 For more information, call (202) 727-6306

